GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5238
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2000
AIR CARGO GROWTH
T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study conducted by National Council for Applied Economic Research revealed that infrastructure deficiencies and lengthy procedures which result in high dwell time hit air cargo growth in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether one third of the total infrastructure available at airport cargo terminals is occupied by unclaimed cargo; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to clear the unclaimed cargo as on date?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV)

(a) and (b):- A study conducted by National Council for Applied Economic Research has mentioned about certain infrastructural deficiencies in air cargo. But independent studies carried out in Mumbai and Delhi in association with Customs and the Clearing Agents Association have shown that the longer dwell time for import cargo was attributable to delay in filing clearance documents and remittance of Customs Duty by importers and agents. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has, however, initiated system improvements to bring down dwell time so that the optimum utilisation of infrastructure facilities are ensured.

(c):- No, Sir.

(d):- The accumulated stock of uncleared/unclaimed import cargo at the four metro airports have already been disposed of under two special projects titled `Operation Instant Cargo-I` and `Operation Instant Cargo-II`. In all 81 auctions were held during the last three years in which 1,11,134 packages have been sold fetching total sale proceeds of Rs. 31.52 crores to the national ex-chequer and AAI thereby clearing the blocked space.